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September 19, 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE PURCHASES, LABOR AGREEMENTS

CHARLESTON – Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees today approved projects totaling more than \$800,000 that will fund a new parking lot, design services for furniture and equipment for Booth Library and hardware and software that supports the campus' computing needs.

The board approved a bid of \$345,000 from NE-CO Asphalt Company, Inc., of Charleston to construct a parking lot at Fourth Street and Garfield Avenue on the EIU campus where tennis courts are currently located. The project was among the recommendations made in the university's campus master plan approved by the board in April 1999.

In other action, trustees approved the selection of Holabird and Root, LLP, of Chicago to provide design services for furniture and equipment for Booth Library. Approximately \$3.75 million has been budgeted for furniture and equipment as part of the renovation and expansion

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of the library. For \$223,800, Holabird and Root will provide shop drawings of product data, write specifications, analyze and receive submittals, provide installation drawings, oversee contract administration, assist in coordinating scheduling and observe the installation.

The board also approved an annual hardware maintenance agreement, not to exceed \$135,000, with IBM Corporation of St. Louis. The agreement covers all electronic equipment that makes up the campus local area network. IBM was also the recommended vendor for an annual software maintenance agreement, not to exceed \$115,000, for mainframe software used for administrative and academic computing. Both agreements are in effect July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

Trustees also approved \$16,500 in additional charges associated with Eastern's chilled water loop extension project, bringing the total cost to \$118,350.

Other board action included the approval of labor contracts and wage agreements for the university's plumbers and pipefitters and electricians.

The labor contract and wage agreement approved by the board for 23 members of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #149 includes a pay increase of 4.3 percent effective June 12, 2000, a shift premium of 50 cents per hour and three additional paid holidays annually. The pay increase amounts to \$51,905.

The plumbers and pipefitters contract, which is in effect from June 1, 2000 through May 31, 2003, also contains minor changes to the non-economic language.

Another labor contract and wage agreement approved by the board covers 12 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #146, who will receive a 4.1 percent

salary increase effective June 1, 2000, as well as an estimated prevailing wage increase of 20 cents per hour effective Dec. 1, 2000. The pay increases amount to \$28,733.

Bargaining unit employees will also receive an evening shift differential of 50 cents per hour and the same paid holidays as most other crafts.

The IBEW contract, which is in effect from Aug. 1, 2000 through Aug. 31, 2001, contains language designed to protect the customary rights of the employer and provides similar contractual language as agreed to for other crafts on campus.

Both labor contracts and wage agreements require that employees receive the rate of pay as certified by the Department of Labor for Coles County.